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WHY THESE TEENAGERS HAVE GOT THE BLUES

THE STRYPES TALK ATYPICAL INFLUENCES AND EXPRESSIVE STYLE. PAGE 16

metro
BOSTON Thursday, March 20, 2014 www.metro.us | t: MetroBOS | f: MetroBoston

DANCING QUEEN

PAGE 05

Boston Marathon bombing survivor Adrianne Haslet- Davis, a professional dancer, performed for the first time Wednesday since losing part of her leg. Her performance was made possible with a prosthetic that was created at MIT. It was featured as part of the TED conference in Vancouver. / JAMES DUNCAN DAVIDSON

Retired cop busted in hit-and-run

Charges filed. Cambridge police veteran Lawrence Stead, 69, of Quincy is due in court today, accused of critically injuring a pedestrian with his car before fleeing the scene. **Road closure.** The incident shut down Massachusetts Avenue for hours while authorities investigated. PAGE 04

SpeakEasy's 'Whale' is worth catching

PAGE 12

Boston Calling releases final lineup

PAGE 02

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1 NEWS

Today's tweet

"Dear MBTA, I passionately hate you with my entire soul. Especially the green line. From, someone who needs a car"

@jczynski's frustration runs deep.

Calling all fans

Win VIP tickets to Boston Calling

What's that sound? It's Boston Calling! Metro wants to put you front and center. We're giving away two VIP tickets to one lucky reader for the music festival over May 23, 24 and 25. That includes exclusive entrance, access to the VIP lounge, food and drinks, private restrooms and elevated viewing for the shows (a $750 value). Just 'like' Metro Boston on Facebook and enter our contest before March 30. You must be 21 or older to win. Rock on!

Commuter Rail

Secret Service investigates fake agent

Authorities are investigating a man they say pretended to be a Secret Service agent on an MBTA Commuter Rail train.

A fellow passenger recorded the man arguing with an MBTA employee about having to pay his fare and uploaded it to YouTube.

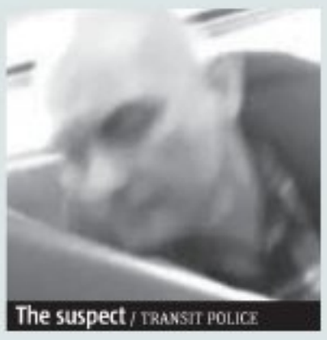
"You don't mess with Secret Service, I'll tell you that right now," the man said to the conductor. "I don't care who you are. You're just a conductor on a train, all right? Don't interrupt my investigation. All right, tough guy? What do you work for, al Qaeda?"

Transit Police said the incident is under investigation and that the man heard on the recording is not a real Secret Service agent.

"I'm confident that the gentleman alleging to be a federal agent does not possess such status," Lt. Richard Sullivan told Boston.com.

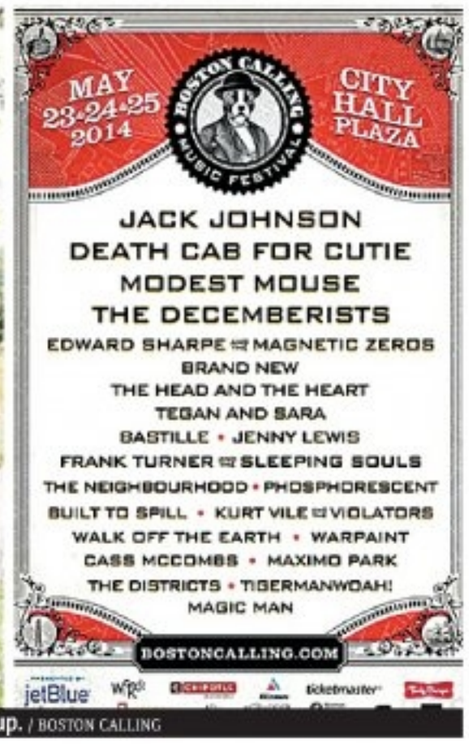
The Secret Service added that it's looking into the incident.

Special Agent in Charge Stephen Marks told Boston.com that "impersonating a federal agent or officer is a crime. … We're taking the report seriously [and] looking to get to the bottom of it." METRO



The suspect / TRANSIT POLICE

The Decemberists, an indie folk band from Portland, Ore., are the final major act added to the Boston Calling lineup. / BOSTON CALLING



Decemberists added to Boston Calling lineup

Music festival. The third installment of Boston Calling begins May 23 and takes place over three days.

An indie folk band from Portland, Ore., will perform its first live show in three years when it returns to the stage during May's Boston Calling music festival.

Boston Calling was expected to announce today that The Decemberists were added to the three-day City Hall Plaza concert lineup.

The Decemberists haven't played live since August 2011 and the band's last Boston show was in January 2011. Their appearance at Boston Calling is their only festival appearance this year, organizers said.

Birthday bash

In addition to announcing their final major act for May's installment, Boston Calling organizers said that Samuel Adams will host the festival's beer gardens while also celebrating the Boston brew's 30th anniversary.

- Those old enough to get into the Boston Calling beer gardens will find "the ultimate craft beer experience." It will include samples of various Samuel Adams brews.
- More details will be announced later, organizers said.

The band most recently saw success when its sixth studio album "The King is Dead" hit No. 1 on the U.S. pop album chart in 2011. The album featured the songs "This is Why We Fight" and "Down By The Water."

Twenty-two acts will play over the course of three days in May in what has quickly become a popular event in Boston. Other acts include Edward Sharpe and the Magnetic Zeros, The Head and the Heart, Tegan and Sara, Frank Turner and the Sleeping Souls, Brand New, Bastille, Jack Johnson, Modest Mouse and Death Cab for Cutie.

The Decemberists are scheduled to play Saturday night, which will be headlined by Death Cab for Cutie.

The event, which includes an abbreviated lineup for Friday night, will be the first time the festival lasts three days. The festival debuted last May and quickly won many fans. Organizers then put on a second festival in September. An estimated 70,000 people attended the first two events.

The lineup was curated by Aaron Dessner of The National, in collaboration with Crash Line Productions and Bowery Boston.

"Having performed at Boston Calling in May 2013, I can say from experience that playing the festival is electric, and we couldn't be happier with the amazing group of artists who will perform at Boston Calling this year," Dessner said in a previous statement about the festival.

A limited number of single day tickets will be released today online. Weekend passes are also available.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
@MetroBosMike
michael.naughton@metro.us

Crash. Seattle chopper used in Hub for a decade

The Seattle news helicopter that crashed Tuesday was reportedly used by Boston news stations WBZ-TV and Fox 25.

WBZ-TV reported that the Federal Aviation Administration confirmed the tail number on the Seattle KOMO-TV news chopper matches the one that was shared by both WBZ-TV and WFXT for 10 years.

Two people were killed in the crash and another critically injured when the chopper fell from the sky and burst into flames after takeoff, hitting three vehicles.

Investigators are looking into what caused the crash. METRO

Statutory rape

Weymouth lunch lady accused of sex with minor

Weymouth mother of four and former school lunch lady Janelle Foley, 36, was released on bail yesterday after being charged with aggravated statutory rape for allegedly having sex with a 15-year-old boy. METRO

Missteps. GPS helps cops catch burglary suspect

A man suspected in multiple break-ins in Cambridge was caught in part because he was wearing a court-ordered GPS device. Jonathan Thompson, 24, of Cambridge, was charged with breaking and entering in the daytime and intimidation of a witness, Cambridge police said on Wednesday. He was arrested last week. While Thompson is only charged with the one house break-in, police said they suspect he is responsible for others that have occurred recently in the city. Police last week identified an emerging pattern of about 10 home burglaries in two neighborhoods. METRO

"I had Hodgkin's lymphoma. Luckily, I also had the Health Connector."

Dave Gilloran
Malden

"I was at my restaurant job, and a coworker could feel a weird lump on my back. I had signed up for insurance at the Health Connector, so I had a doctor check it out during a physical. It was Hodgkin's lymphoma. I guess you never know."

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Man badly injured in hit-and-run

See more at www.metro.us

Arrested. A retired cop has been charged.

A former Cambridge police officer from Quincy was arrested Wednesday, nearly nine hours after he allegedly drove his car into a pedestrian on Massachusetts Avenue, critically injuring the man then fleeing.

At about 2:50 p.m., Boston police said they arrested Lawrence Stead, 69, and charged him with leaving the scene of an accident causing personal injury. Cambridge police said that Stead was an officer with that city's department for more than 25 years. He retired in 2009. Emergency crews were called to the area in front of the Massachusetts Avenue crash site around 6 a.m.

Investigators closed down part of the busy roadway for hours while they collected evidence at the scene, which was near a crosswalk. The victim was taken to Boston Medical Center, where he reportedly underwent surgery.

Boston police said that the car believed to be involved in the crash — a 1999 Mercury Grand Marquis — was located during the search that ensued.

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
and MORGAN ROUSSEAU
michael.naughton@metro.us

Investigators collect evidence on Massachusetts Avenue yesterday where a pedestrian was struck by a hit-and-run driver. / NICOLAUS CZARNECKI, METRO

Charged

Boston police said they arrested 69-year-old Lawrence Stead and charged him with leaving the scene of an accident causing personal injury.

- He is due to be arraigned in court today.

Digital currency

State issues alert over bitcoins

State consumer advocates issued a warning on Tuesday alerting people about the "risk" of buying bitcoins.

The Office of Consumer Affairs and Business Regulation issued an alert about the popular online currency, titled "Buy Bitcoins at Your Own Risk."

"First and foremost, if you can't afford to lose the money you have, you should not buy bitcoins," the agency said in its alert. "It's a high-risk currency because of the volatility in its price."

Proponents argue that bitcoins provide a fast and fee-free payment system.
METRO

MBTA crime

Transit Police release video of 'brazen' T-shirt thief

Transit Police are searching for a man who was caught on video allegedly stealing a variety of Bob Marley T-shirts from a clothing kiosk at Roxbury's Dudley Station.

The suspect, who police described as a "brazen thief," allegedly stole the merchandise around noon Saturday. Surveillance video released on YouTube shows a black male wearing a black cap, a black shirt and a gold quilted jacket with red trim, first picking through the rack then making off with an armload of clothing. Transit Police said he is estimated to be between 35 and 45 years old, and said he is believed to have a beard. Officials asked anyone with information to contact the MBTA's criminal investigations unit at 617-222-1050. METRO

The video shows the suspect leafing through clothing. / TRANSIT POLICE

Hugh Herr leans in to embrace Boston Marathon bombing survivor Adrianne Haslet-Davis at the TED conference, after the professional dancer completed her first public dance Wednesday using the prosthetic leg that Herr designed. / JAMES DUNCAN DAVISON

Marathon survivor dances once more

Inspirational. Adrianne Haslet-Davis, a professional dancer, lost part of her left leg.

On Wednesday, Adrianne Haslet-Davis showed what "Boston Strong" is all about.

The Marathon bombing survivor and professional dancer who lost her left leg below the knee danced for the first time publicly since the April 15 blasts. She danced a rumba with Christian Lightner to Enrique Iglesias' "Ring My Bells."

Haslet-Davis, wearing a thigh-length dress, showed off her moves and her new MIT-designed prosthetic leg during a presentation at the TED conference in Vancouver.

"It was invigorating to dance publicly with my new leg, but also to realize that my return to dance may have the power to inspire other people to reach for their goals and be proactive in their lives," she said in a statement. "I want to thank the people of Boston for their incredible support on every day of my journey."

The demonstration was emotional for the audience.

"This entire room is crying. @hughherr's bionic limb enables a victim of the Boston bombing to dance again," tweeted @sacca.

Chris Anderson, the TED curator, tweeted that it was the most moving moment on the TED stage ever.

The technology, entertainment and design conference included a presentation by Hugh Herr, the designer of the leg and the head of the biomechatronics research group at the MIT Media Lab. He was spoke about the new leg and his work.

Herr, a double amputee, and his colleagues designed a bionic dance leg capable of providing natural levels of power while dancing.

Quoted

"Backstage ... reading ur sweet msgs! You make me #BostonStrong! Wish me luck!"

Adrianne Haslet-Davis
Tweeted before dancing

MICHAEL NAUGHTON
@MetroBosMike
michael.naughton@metro.us

Lodging

Boston hotels booked for Marathon

Hotels across Boston are already fully booked for the April 21 Boston Marathon due to a groundswell of support after last year's bombings, and those who left lodging arrangements to the last minute are scrambling for rooms as far away as Rhode Island.

About 36,000 runners are expected to run this year, 9,000 more than last year. **REUTERS**

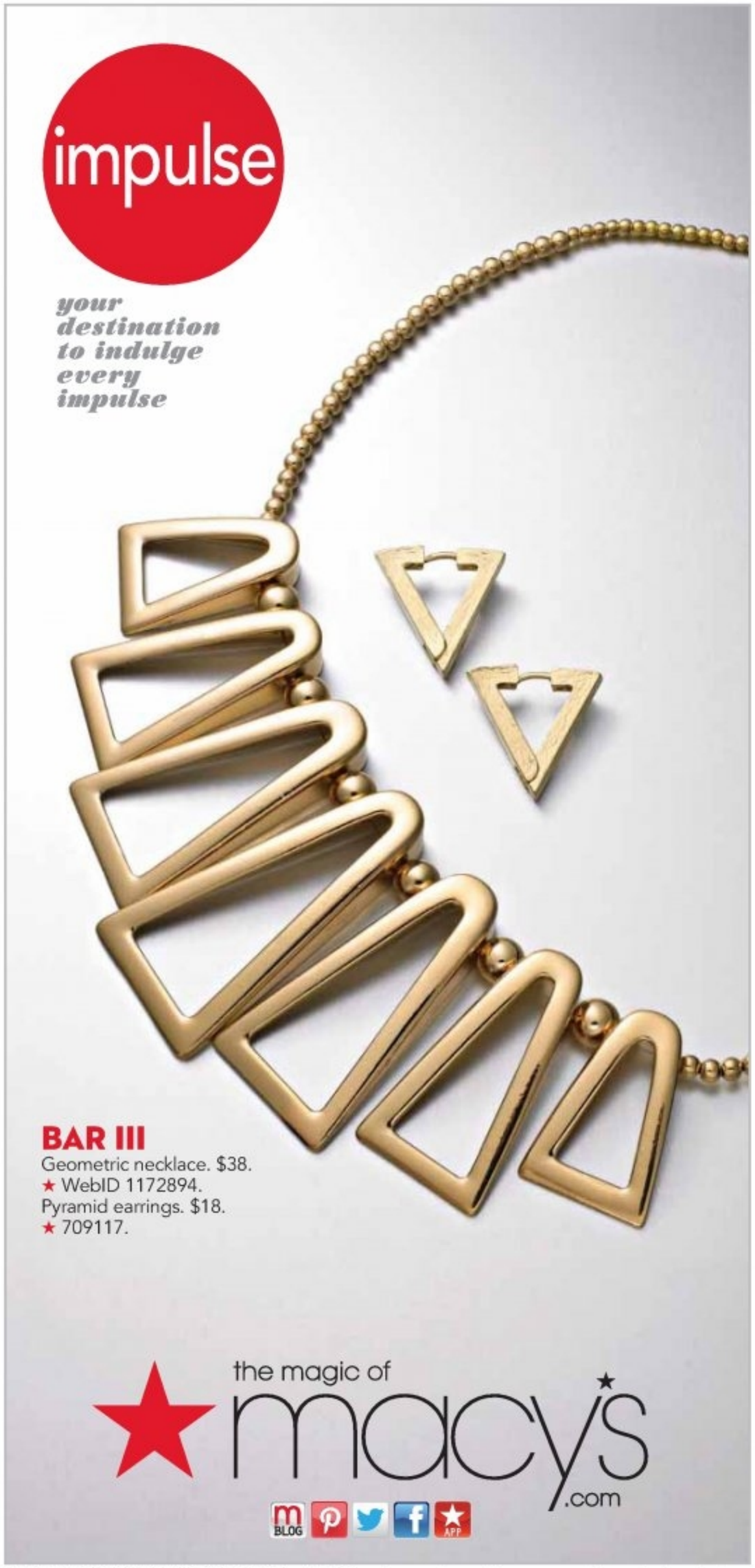
Death ride. Medway uncle charged in crash

Peter Curtis, 32, of Medway was in court Wednesday for a Monday night car crash that injured his niece and nephew.

Police say Curtis, who works in Framingham's parks and recreation department, told the children that they should buckle up because they were going on a "death ride."

He sped to 100 miles per hour before crossing over the road and "intentionally" crashing into a utility pole, police said. **METRO**

Curtis / FRAMINGHAM PD



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Car troubles

Toyota's settlement may be model for GM probe

Toyota Motor Corp. will pay a record $1.2 billion to resolve a criminal probe into safety issues, in a deal that could serve as a template for how authorities approach a similar investigation into General Motors Co.

The settlement between the Justice Department and Toyota includes an admission by the auto manufacturer that it misled American consumers about two different problems that caused cars to accelerate even as drivers tried to slow them down.

"My hope and expectation is that this resolution will serve as a model for how to approach future cases involving similarly situated companies," Attorney General Eric Holder told a news conference.

Holder declined to discuss GM specifically, but Preet Bharara, the chief U.S. prosecutor in Manhattan who joined him at the news conference, made a verbal slip and referred to the case against Toyota as one against GM. He quickly corrected himself. REUTERS

By the numbers

1.6M

GM has recalled more than 1.6 million vehicles over a decade after first noticing an ignition switch failure in some models.

Missing. Anger erupts as plane search drags on

Chinese relatives of passengers are stopped and escorted away from the media center by Malaysian police. / GETTY IMAGES

Chinese relatives' anger about sparse information on the fate of their loved ones onboard a missing Malaysian airliner sparked chaotic scenes Wednesday at the headquarters of a search operation that has so far turned up few clues.

Malaysia's transport minister ordered an inquiry after security guards carried out the distraught mother of a passenger on Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 from a briefing room where she had been protesting a lack of transparency, 12 days after the plane vanished. Prospects that a 26-nation operation would lead to quick results appeared to be dwindling as investigators confirmed they were focusing on the southern Indian Ocean after failing to find any traces farther north. REUTERS

Quoted

"They are just saying wait for information. Wait for information. We don't know how long we have to wait."

Mother of a missing passenger

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Summer Term also offers four programs for high school students: High School Honors, Research Internship in Science & Engineering, Summer Challenge, and Summer Preview. Explore new subjects—and life on a college campus.

Ukraine crisis

Pentagon chief meets with top US business leaders

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel spoke to chief executives of major U.S. companies Wednesday to explain the Pentagon's 2015 budget proposal and to field possible questions about the economic impact of rising tensions with Russia.

Hagel addressed members of the Business Roundtable on Wednesday afternoon, filling in for Vice President Joe Biden, who was originally scheduled to speak.

REUTERS

Defense budget

$496B

Hagel discussed the Defense Department's $496 billion budget proposal for the 2015 fiscal year and the strategy underlying the plan.

Russian forces take over Ukraine base in Crimea

Overthrown. Putin said his move to annex Crimea was justified by "fascists" in Kiev.

The United States warned Moscow on Wednesday that it was on a "dark path" to isolation after Russian troops backed by unarmed volunteers stormed Ukraine's naval headquarters in the Crimean port of Sevastopol and raised their flag.

The dramatic seizure came as Russia and the West dug in for a long confrontation over Moscow's annexation of Crimea, with the United States and Europe groping for ways to increase pressure on a defiant Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Russian military personnel surround a Ukrainian military base in Perevalnoe, Ukraine. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"As long as Russia continues on this dark path, they will face increasing political and economic isolation." Vice President Joe Biden

Biden was in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius, part of a quick trip to reassure Baltic allies worried about what an emboldened, aggressive Russia might mean for their nations. Lithuania, along with Estonia and Latvia, are NATO members.

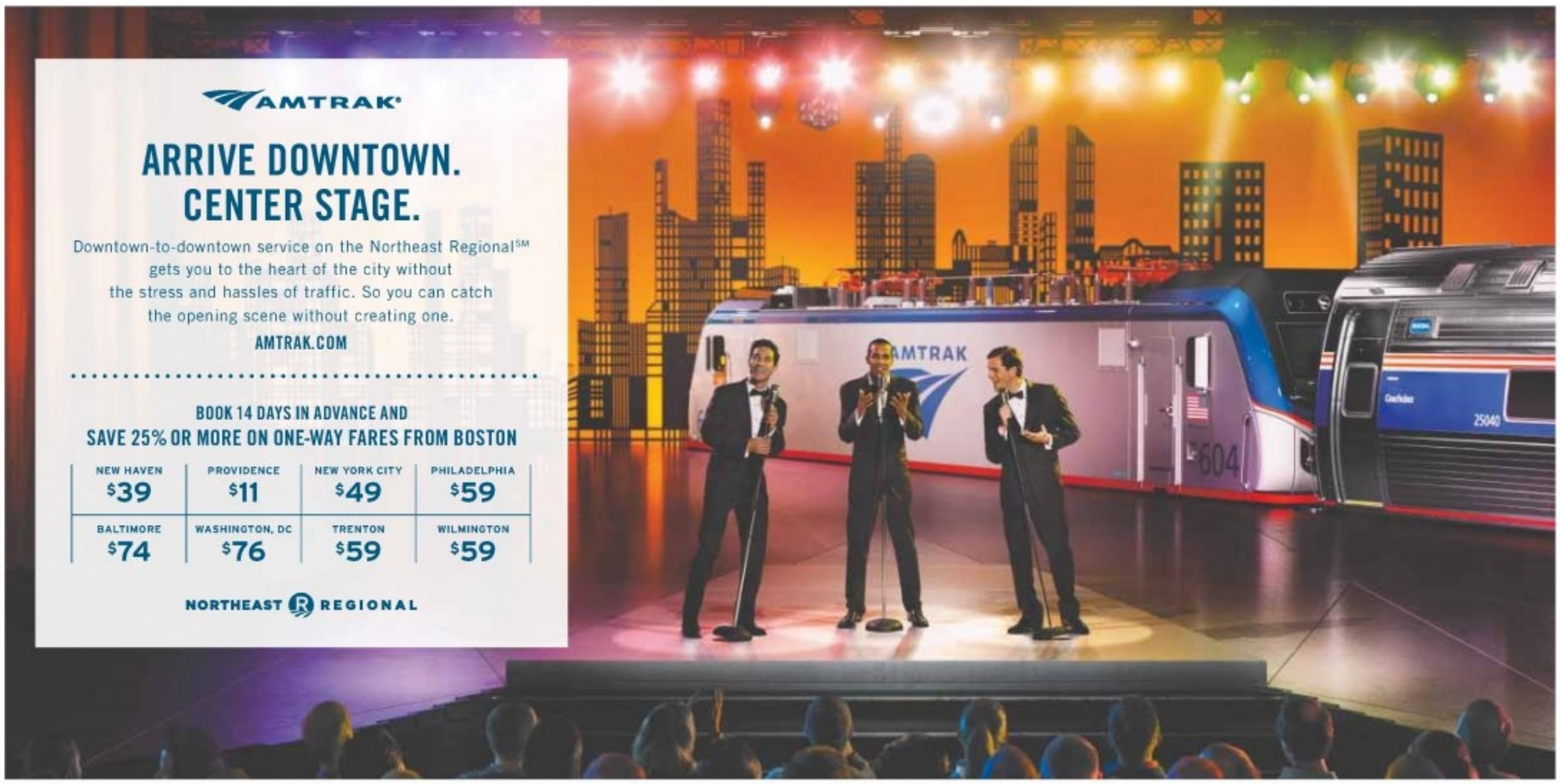
"There is an attempt, using brutal force, to redraw borders of the European states and to destroy the post-war architecture of Europe," Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaite said.

The United Nations said Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon will push for a peaceful solution to the crisis when he meets Putin in Moscow today and when he travels to Kiev on Friday.

Russian lawmakers raced to ratify a treaty making the Ukrainian region part of Russia by the end of the week, despite threats of further sanctions from Washington and Brussels.

The Russian military moved swiftly to neutralize any threat of armed resistance in Crimea.

REUTERS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Not very trusting

States to probe Comcast plan to buy Time Warner Cable

Florida and other states will join the Justice Department in seeking to determine if Comcast's plan to merge with Time Warner Cable is legal under federal antitrust law, Florida officials said.

"We are part of a multistate group reviewing the proposed transaction along with the U.S. DOJ Antitrust Division," the state attorney general's office said in an email. It was not known how many states had joined the task force.

Indiana officials were also looking at the deal to determine "the potential impact," said Erin Reece, a spokeswoman for the Indiana AG's office. Pennsylvania, where Comcast is headquartered, was "reviewing the case independently," said Joe Peters, a spokesman for the state's attorney general's office. REUTERS

By the numbers

$45.2B

The deal between the two companies is worth $45.2 billion.

Prognostication. Obama predicts Michigan State to win NCAA championship

President Barack Obama thinks Michigan State will win the NCAA men's basketball college championship.

The problem? As president, Obama has correctly predicted the winner only once, when North Carolina won the championship in 2009.

As announced on ESPN, Obama's Final Four picks for the NCAA tournament, which starts this week, are: Michigan State, Arizona, Florida and Louisville.

Obama picked Michigan State to knock off top-ranked Florida to advance to the final against Louisville, which he predicted would beat Arizona.

To advance in the first round, Obama has Michigan State defeating Delaware, the university in Vice President Joe Biden's home state.

"I think going against Michigan State is pretty tough," Obama told ESPN in outlining his tournament bracket. "I'll let Biden fill out his own bracket. If he wants to pick Delaware over Michigan State, I'll let him do it." REUTERS

A nascent Nostradamus?

GETTY IMAGES

KEITH APPLING #11 OF THE MICHIGAN STATE SPARTANS BRINGS THE BALL UP THE FLOOR.

GETTY IMAGES

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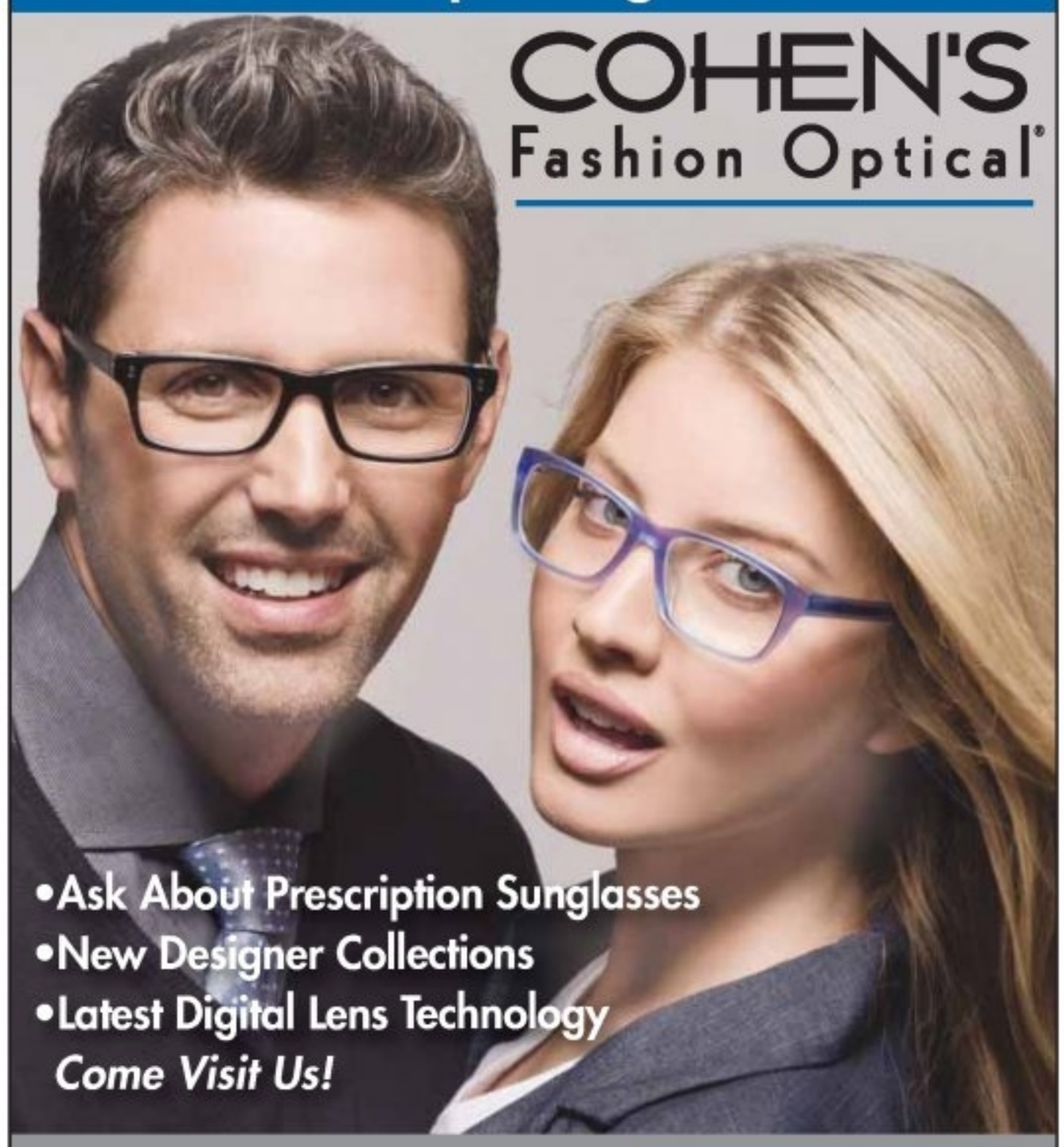

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CULTURE

THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

DOROTHY ROBINSON
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dorothy.robinson@metro.us

WIREIMAGE

Shailene Woodley's big red carpet moment

At the tender age of 22, Shailene Woodley is about to helm one of the year's most anticipated sure-to-be blockbusters, "Divergent." Here she is with co-star Kate Winslet at the film's Los Angeles premiere Tuesday night.

Lindsay Lohan's sex list ... continued

Everyone! Important news! More names on Lindsay Lohan's sex list have been revealed! And yes, you will want to know who they are.

Earlier in the month, I told you about In Touch's "world exclusive" report, in which the mag somehow got hold of Lohan's handwritten conquest list. Heath Ledger, Adam Levine, Zac Efron, Justin Timberlake, Joaquin Phoenix, Colin Farrell, Evan Peters, Wilmer Valderrama and Jamie Dornan all made the cut, for better or worse. However, some of the names were blanked out for what everyone assumed were legal reasons — but now we know it was just a clever way for In Touch to drag the story out for as long as possible.

The new round of names include Ashton Kutcher, Orlando Bloom, Benicio Del Toro, Ryan Phillippe, rugby player Danny Cipriani, NHL player Aaron Voros and director Josh Mond.

So, there you go. Everyone famous who Lindsay Lohan has had sex with. The only person missing from the list is Danny DeVito. And at this point, he probably wasn't on the list because she couldn't figure out how to spell "DeVito."

Back in October 2006 — did they, or didn't they? / WIREIMAGE

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1 'Muppets Most Wanted' The second of the original run of Muppet movies was a caper comedy set overseas, and so is the second of the reboot lot. The Jason Segel-less sequel finds Kermit discovering he has a criminal doppelganger who robs museums with Ricky Gervais.

2 'Divergent' Perhaps you, too, can write a YA series that will become a splashy and aggressively promoted film franchise! Veronica Roth's tales of futuristic Chicago teens get no less than Shailene Woodley, plus no less than Kate Winslet as the baddie.

3 'Nymphomaniac: Volume I' It was probably inevitable that incorrigible provocateur Lars Von Trier would make a four-hour sex movie. In part one, Charlotte Gainsbourg plays a superfreak who talks about her past shtupping Shia LaBeouf and others. ("Volume II" will be out April 4.)

4 'Blood Ties' The French crime drama "Rivals" gets its American remake, albeit directed by one of its French stars ("Tell No One" helmer Guillaume Canet). Billy Crudup and Clive Owen play brothers on opposite sides of the law; Zoe Saldana, Mila Kunis and Marion Cotillard co-star.

Is that Kermit the Frog or his Russian master criminal doppelganger with a sinister mole in "Muppets Most Wanted"? / DISNEY

ADMIT ONE

Metro rounds up what's in cinemas this week.

MATT PRIGGE
matt.prigge@metro.us

5 'Bad Words' Jason Bateman steps behind the camera in this dark comedy, in which he also plays a 40-year-old who exploits a loophole in spelling bee rules and starts beating junior geniuses at competitions.

6 'Particle Fever' If the rebooted "Cosmos" has left you hankering for more science awesomeness, this documentary sits in on the testing of the Large Hadron Collider, which tentatively proved the existence of the so-called "God particle." Science!

7 'The Face of Love' Mourning her husband, a woman (Annette Bening) is shocked to meet a man (Ed Harris) who looks just like him. Robin Williams is in there somewhere, too.

8 'The Lunchbox' The great Irrfan Khan ("Life of Pi") plays a lonely office drone who accidentally receives the special lunch a wife made for her neglectful husband. So begins a hilarious series of misunderstandings ... or is it also love? (Probably.)

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'The Whale' will leave you with a heavy heart

John Kuntz, left, and Ryan O'Connor star in "The Whale." / CRAIG BAILEY/PERSPECTIVE PHOTO

Theater. SpeakEasy's latest offering doesn't skimp on emotions.

At first glance, "The Whale" is pretty ugly.

A 600-pound man plopped on a sofa that's about to fall through the floor, sitting amid strewn litter that was once the packaging for much of the food he gorged on to get to this point. In the background, strains of waves hitting the shore play, intermittently paired with his own compromised, gurgling breaths.

This "Whale," Charlie (John Kuntz), has very little human contact, earning his living teaching online courses and receiving all medical advice from Liz (Georgia Lyman), a friend who is a nurse and his greatest enabler. But as his life nears its predictable end, he begins to find a human connection with his teenage daughter Ellie (Josephine Elwood), whom he hasn't seen in years, her alcoholic mother Mary (Maureen Keiller) and Elder Thomas (Ryan O'Connor) a random (or is it?) visiting Mormon missionary.

While you could easily get lost in analysis and the subtext of playwright Samuel D. Hunter's piece, the dysfunctional spectacle in front of you is so riveting you can't take your eyes off of it. As layer upon layer of emotional entanglement unravels, you begin to see that each of these people is an isolated specimen craving attention of their own.

Turns out, Charlie is the only one who seems comfortable in his plight and fate.

Kuntz (in padding) imbues him with so much humanity you root for him to overcome. Though every strained breath and movement is heartbreakingly authentic, he nicely avoids victimizing him.

The remainder of the ensemble delivers equally impressive performances with Lyman and Elwood displaying great comedic timing. Keiller, in a small but pivotal part, keeps it from veering into freak show territory with her stellar, grounded work.

If you go

'The Whale'

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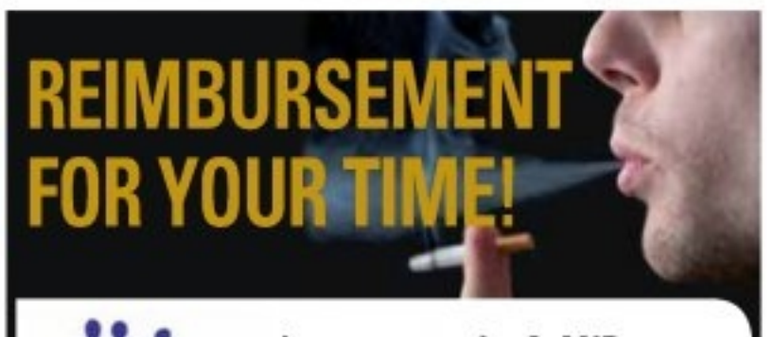

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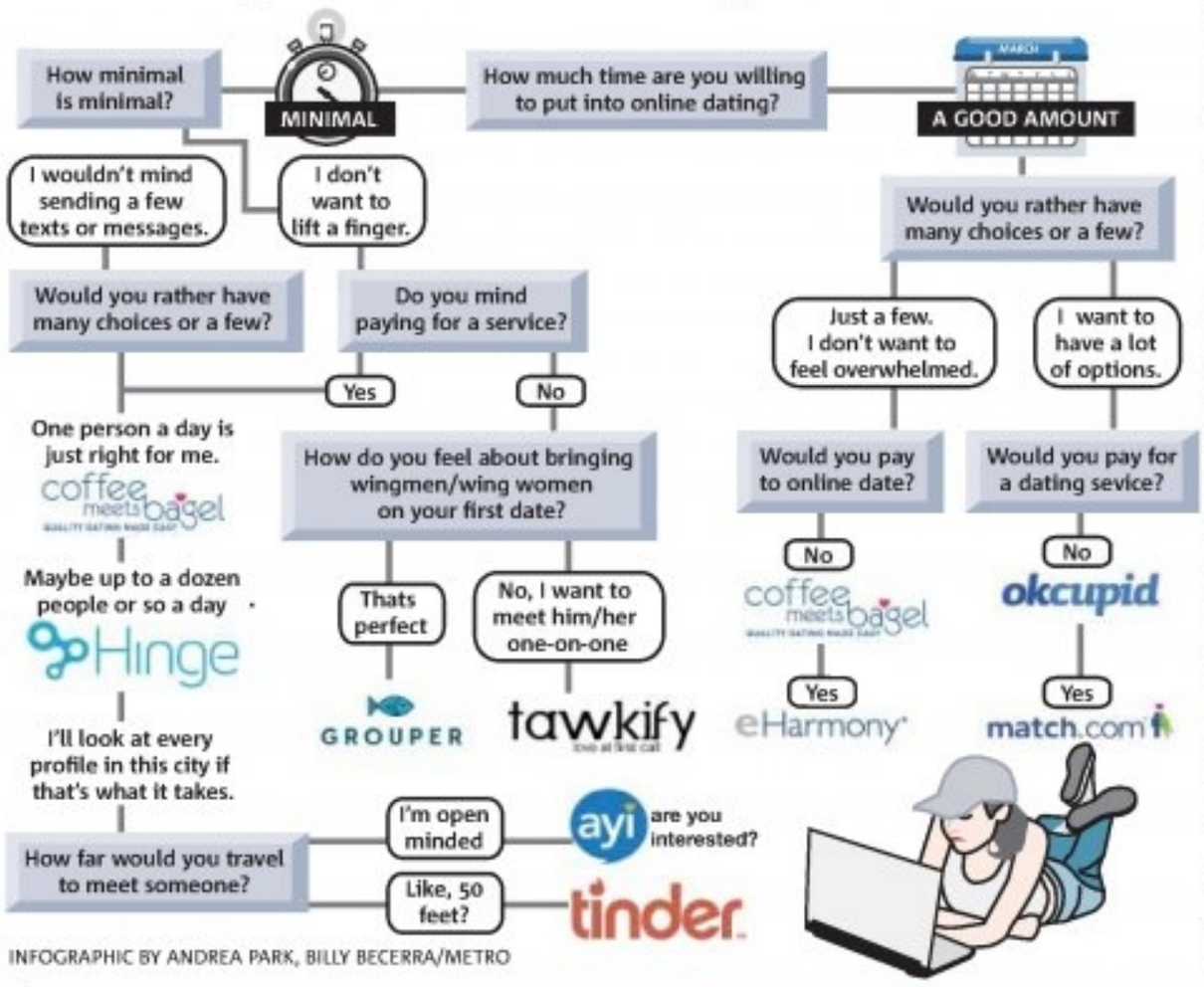
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Yes
No
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Just a few. I don't want to feel overwhelmed.
I want to have a lot of options.
One person a day is just right for me.
coffee meets bagel
How do you feel about bringing wingmen/wing women on your first date?
Would you pay to online date?
Would you pay for a dating sevice?
No
No
Maybe up to a dozen people or so a day
Hinge
Thats perfect
No, I want to meet him/her one-on-one
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match.com
Yes
Yes
I'll look at every profile in this city if that's what it takes.
How far would you travel to meet someone?
I'm open minded
Like, 50 feet?
ayi are you interested?
tinder

INFOGRAPHIC BY ANDREA PARK, BILLY BECERRA/METRO

Match.com, eHarmony and OK-Cupid: These three sites require users to fill out lengthy questionnaires and are geared toward people who are willing to either sift through or write (hopefully thoughtful) messages. The market is increasingly flooded with sites and apps that meet the needs of a short attention span. These sites are for those in it for real. But if you're looking for a lifelong commitment, it could be worth it.

Coffee Meets Bagel: Men will have plenty of options on this woman-heavy site: Sixty percent of users are female. This free site gives you just one match a day, usually a friend of a Facebook friend, which makes it a great option for busy people who don't have time to sift through profiles. The app targets educated millennials: One-third of users have a college degree, 71 percent are in their 20s and 26 percent in their 30s.

Are You Interested?: This site has a game-like quality to it: to play, you are presented with a list of members and you click "Yes" or "Skip" until you get bored (or until you fall in love.)

Tinder: This free location-based app lets users see photos of people nearby and swipe left for "nope" or swipe right for "like." If you both like each other, you can start chatting. Tinder will use Facebook to show you any mutual friends, but doesn't necessarily stay in your circle.

Hinge: Hinge lies somewhere between Coffee Meets Bagel and Tinder in concept. It gives users up to a dozen matches a day and chooses from friends of friends on Facebook. Young folks take note: Almost 80 percent of Hinge members are in their 20s.

Grouper: This is a dating site gone social. It sets you and two friends up on a blind hangout with three members of the opposite sex, and the $20 per person includes a round of drinks. It's good if you're unsure about online dating and want to meet people more casually.

ANDREA PARK

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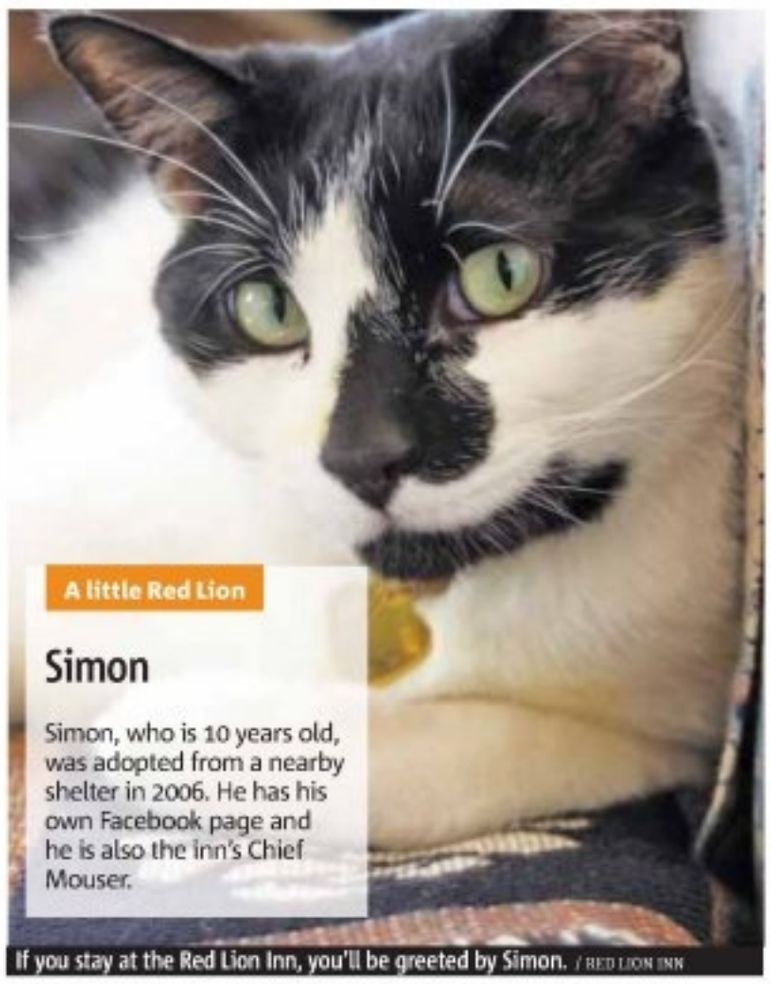
Inns that are the cat's pajamas



A little Red Lion

Simon

Simon, who is 10 years old, was adopted from a nearby shelter in 2006. He has his own Facebook page and he is also the inn's Chief Mouser.

If you stay at the Red Lion Inn, you'll be greeted by Simon. / RED LION INN

Accommodations. Guests from Stockbridge to San Juan rave about the innkeepers' kitties.

Our story on hotel lobby dogs earlier this year got cat-ophiles wondering: Why only dogs? From Trixie, who resides at the Hotel El Convento in San Juan to the seven rescue kitties (Grayling, Silky, Emmy, Sandy, Marilyn, Tiger and Ducky) who scare lizards away from Tranquility Bay Beach House Resort in the Florida Keys, cats give an aloof, but homey greeting.

At Stockbridge's Red Lion Inn, Simon has become quite the star: "People's reaction to Simon amazes me," says Jayne Church, the inn's Gift Shop manager. "Guests come to see him and send him cards and cat treats in the mail. One day, I was outside the gift shop with Simon and noticed a woman in the lobby, struggling to take a picture of him. I said, 'Simon, this nice lady is trying to get a picture of you. Could you please help her?' It's almost eerie what he did," says Church. "He walked over, sat down in front of her, and posed. He turned his head to the left, then to the right, as if he wanted to make sure she got his best profile."

At West Chesterfield's Chesterfield Inn in New Hampshire, 10-year-old Maggie has seniority over 5-year-old Yoda, but the youngster grabs more attention from guests. "Maggie is very shy, but can be found on the terrace outside the front of the inn. If you approach her quietly, she's very friendly and will let you pet her," says innkeeper Judy Hueber. "Yoda spends his days at the front desk and greets everyone who comes in the door. He's the happy recipient of much attention from the guests and likes to be fed his treats by hand, and he likes his water in a highball glass with ice."

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Bonjour spring, adieu doo doo

As the snow begins to melt and the dog piles left behind from the blizzard and storms begin to surface in the yard, take heed of these practical and environmentally friendly pet waste accessories. ALEX KHATCHADOURIAN

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‘Rocket cats’ purring up the history books

Just because people once used ‘rocket cats’ doesn’t mean anybody should use their pets as such today. / PROVIDED

Pets as weapons.
These fiery felines blaze out of recently unearthed 16th-century texts.

Hidden inside the pages of a few 16th-century manuscripts is evidence that at one time or another, warring nations at least considered using “rocket cats” as tactile weapons.

Mitch Fraas, the Schoenberg Scholar-in-Residence at the University of Pennsylvania Libraries, was pointed toward the images inside the medieval texts that show cats and birds strapped to what look to be jet packs.

“The way they’re drawn it looks like they are being propelled,” Fraas says. “But really they’re just on fire.”

Last year, an Australian manuscript enthusiast paging through some of the 2,000 pre-1800 bound books in Penn’s collection, which are available online, found images of “rocket cats” and messaged Fraas. This led to a blog post, and then an inquiry from the British tabloid The Daily Mail.

Through translation, Fraas figured out the gist: One group is besieging a fortified town. “You can’t get inside the walls, but plenty of animals move in and out of the walls at night,” Fraas says.

“Why not capture a cat or a bird or something and essentially strap a sack of gunpowder to its back, light a long fuse and let it go,” he adds.

The hope is that if it’s a dove or a homing pigeon, it returns to its home. “If it’s a cat it’s going to run back to its house, terrified because it’s on fire,” Fraas says, “and then when it reaches its resting place it will set the whole town on fire when it explodes.”

But, more likely, “Once you light the fuse, the cat will run back into your tent,” he adds.

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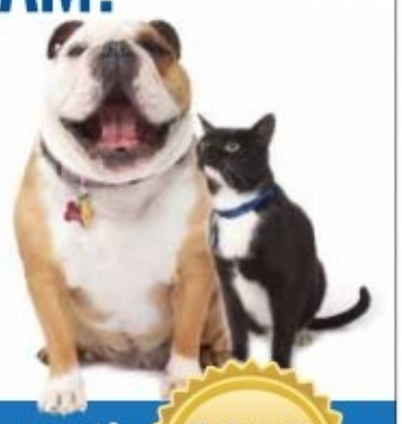

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Gogol Bordello
July 25, House of Blues
(On sale Friday)

Breathing new life into Death Vessel

Music. Joel Thibodeau travels from Rhode Island to Iceland to bring forth 'Island Intervals,' his most vibrant work yet.

Joel Thibodeau is comfortable admitting that his lyrics are difficult to understand. It's not that they're difficult to hear — on his three releases as Death Vessel, his angelic voice is right up front — it's that they are cryptic reels of poetry that give a mere glimpse into one person's guarded imagination.

"I think when everything is laid out for you at the beginning and when everything is immediately understandable, it's not that interesting," says the singer. "The kind of music that I'm attracted to allows for discovery and potential excursion."

Add to that list of excursion-worthy music the work of Sigur Rós singer Jónsi, who Thibodeau supported on a 2010 tour for the Icelandic musician's solo album, "Go." Sharing the stage with someone he admired greatly was worth traveling an extensive distance for Thibodeau — a gesture that would be returned in the end. "The very first night of the tour he mentioned that he wanted me to sing with him," says Thibodeau, who had just driven straight from his Rhode Island home to Vancouver. "I thought he meant the night of the show!"

What Jónsi was actually hoping for was to collaborate with Death Vessel — a pairing that finally came to fruition in "Island Intervals," which found Thibodeau traveling to Iceland to work with Jónsi and partner Alex Somers on an album of intensely heady, almost glacial proportions.

"Being in a foreign country by myself predominantly was a fairly solitary existence," says Thibodeau, reflecting on three months spent working in Reykjavík where he witnessed the transformation of his finger-picked guitar sound vis-à-vis the more spectral production style of Somers — a transformation full of unorthodox percussion (think calliopes, music boxes, the clip-clop of hooves) set amid warm, sustaining layers of instruments and harmonies. "I had a lot of time to reflect and deal with my own thoughts and what I needed to do to finish the record. In addition to being in a really beautiful setting, it's a really great place to be to concentrate like this. The minute you get out of Reykjavík it's just expansive and open. There's no shortage of space."

JONATHAN DONALDSON
@MetroBOS
jdonaldson@metro.us

Joel Thibodeau reaches great heights on "Island Intervals." / COREY GRAYHORSE

Rhode Iceland

Keeping up with Jónsi

Anyone familiar with the work of Thibodeau and Jónsi knows that both singers possess ethereal, unconventionally high voices. It's a similarity that Thibodeau readily acknowledges.

"Obviously we share an interest in this certain timbre that other people aren't doing as much with currently," he says of the comparison between him and his Icelandic counterpart.

"But there are very different qualities to the way he sings," he adds, alluding to their "Island Intervals" duet "Isla Drown." "When you hear our two voices together they are distinctly different. In some ways I think his voice is more refined. He can hold notes forever!"

If you go

Death Vessel

With Shearwater, Jesca Hoop
March 25
Brighton Music Hall
$13, 800-745-3000
www.ticketmaster.com

Strypes. One of the biggest buzzes from last week's SXSW came from a group whose oldest member is 18

In the 1998 Kurt Russell flick, "Soldier," a group of infants are selected at birth and raised as soldiers. That just may be what's going on with The Strypes, but instead of using every resource to educate the children in the school of warfare, somebody drilled it into these Irish kids to play the blues.

Although the above scenario sounds like one with dystopian consequences, these teenagers cook. They sound like some of the best bands of the 1960s British Invasion, music that one wouldn't normally think teenagers would have interest in, let alone be able to master.

"I suppose we're all from musical households and our parents all play, so we all had a natural inclination toward music growing up," says 17-year-old drummer Evan Walsh, who is the most outspoken member of the group when we meet them at the SXSW Music Conference.

The band's debut, "Snapshot," came out in the U.S. on Tuesday. It's packed with 12 stylized and adrenalized tracks, but they're arguably best experienced live, where 18-year-old guitarist Josh McClorey can let the leads really rip.

The band carry themselves with swagger and dress like mods, in sharp blazers ornamented with buttons of their favorite bands on the lapels. Ask Walsh about his Dr. Feelgood button, and it gets the whole band on a roll about the merits of this 1970s pub rock band that most teenagers probably don't even know about.

"Initially we got into these bands through the early Rolling Stones and found the Yardbirds, Rockpile and Eddie & the Hot Rods," says Walsh. "They were all white bands who were basically playing cover versions and originals inspired by that sort of stuff. So we got into those bands first and that led us back to people like Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Howlin' Wolf and Muddy Waters."

All the young dudes: The Strypes play tonight at Great Scott. Visit www.greatscottboston.com for more info. / PAT HEALY

Titles and names

Strypes on Stryper

Since the members of The Strypes seem to know their history so well, we ask their thoughts on the embarrassing Christian metal band with the name so similar to theirs, Stryper.

"I've seen the name written down, but I've never been intrigued by it," says Walsh.

McClorey says, either diplomatically or sarcastically, "How can Christian rock be an embarrassing thing?"

We inform him of the hair, power ballads and bee-striped leather, and he seems to reach an understanding.

But the band members' taste isn't limited to blues. McClorey rattles off a list of acts he had taken in and planned to take in at SXSW, and they include Damon Albarn, Kanye West, Jay Z and Snoop Dogg.

"The blues was always around us growing up," says Walsh, "but so was a lot of the new wave and punk stuff too, like Johnny Thunders and The Clash." PAT HEALY

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MUSIC

Saint Matthew Passion

Sanders Theatre, Harvard University, Cambridge
$25-$45; Student rush: $5
March 22, preshow talk: 7 p.m.; concert: 7:30 p.m.
MasterworksChorale.org
617-858-6785

Steven Karidoyanes conducts Masterworks Chorale in the only Boston-area performance of Bach's "Saint Matthew Passion" this season. Grand in depth and inspiration, this music — with its double chorus, double orchestra, children's chorus and fine cast of soloists — will transport you. For details about free parking, Harvard Square dining specials, and pre-concert talk, visit MasterworksChorale.org.

MUSIC

Boston Connection

Friday, March 28, 8 p.m.
Jordan Hall at NEC
$20-$50, students with ID $15
617-585-1260 www.bmop.org

Works by Donald Crockett, Steven Stucky, Lei Liang and Binna Kim celebrate BMOP's 15-year partnership with New England Conservatory and its global results. Chien-Kwan Lin, sax, is featured in Liang's concerto. Crockett's "Blue Earth" and Stucky's "Concerto for Orchestra" are sonically rich, adventurous symphonic works, while Kim, winner of the 2013-14 BMOP/NEC Composition Competition, provides a fresh new voice. Gil Rose conducts.

THE OBERON MIXES THINGS UP WITH COCKTAIL PERFORMANCE ART

Many of the productions put on at Oberon, the nightclub-feeling venue of the American Repertory Theater, already blur the lines between audience and performers. That's particularly true of AcousticaElectronica. The show incorporates elements of classical music, opera, dance and literary arts into a modern, electronic-music context, with remixed interpretations of stories like "Swan Lake," "The Picture of Dorian Gray" and "Carmen" swirling around the audience throughout the venue. For their upcoming performances, beginning March 28, they're taking things even further, with an interactive cocktail menu that's meant to enhance the telling of the story.

"It's an interactive performance, an immersive performance, and the characters and actions take place in the audience," explains the venue's manager, Leo Crowley. "The idea for incorporating the cocktails into the program came about because the audience is so mixed in with the cast, we wanted to pull in one more element, pull in a real tie to the world they've created with performance. The show kind of lends itself to that since there are moments where the characters are drinking something during the play."

The drinks at Oberon could leave your head spinning (and seeing triple). You might also enjoy the show. / ROBERT TERRY

If you go

Club Oberon

March 28, 10:30 p.m.
AcousticaElectronica
2 Arrow St., Cambridge
americanrepertorytheater.org/oberon

During one part of the show, for example, the character of Carmen takes a shot in the middle of singing a song. "The idea here was the coloring and flavoring of the drink would mirror the scene and her personality and people could go further into the moment by taking the drink along with her."

That drink is a spicy margarita-style cocktail, made with jalapeno-infused tequila and blood orange juice, called Love Is a Rebellious Bird. The second cocktail, named The Conductor's Hallucination, is made with blueberry vodka, limoncello, blue Curacao and absinthe, and comes when the character of the Conductor goes on a bit of a trip by drinking a potion. "In my interpretation, the potion has hallucinatory properties, so it gets him ready for his journey," Crowley says. The cocktail, with its bright, vibrant blue, evokes that, as does the supposed effects of absinthe.

"This is the first time we've tried something like this," Crowley says. "It started out as doing drink specials, and as I watched the show we were saying, 'Wouldn't it be cool if we had drinks named after the characters?'"

To facilitate the timing, audience members purchase the flight of three drinks at the beginning, ($28), and will be given color-coded drink tickets.

Metro does not endorse the opinions of the author.

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Horoscope

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20.
Be sure to take extra care while en route to a destination. With encouragement on your part, a current companion will turn into a romantic partner.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20.
This is a great day to spend an enjoyable time with friends, relatives and family. Good fortune is within reach. Make home improvements or look at a property investment.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21.
Networking can bring positive results. You will be well-regarded if you join an organization whose principles reflect your beliefs.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20.
An incomplete project will be distracting. Share any problems you face with a colleague; asking for help is not a sign of weakness. Put less important affairs aside.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22.
Love and romance are in the stars. Consider a change of scenery. Participating in a new and exciting social activity will have some surprising results. Try something different.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22.
Inactivity is your enemy. Make an effort to go out with friends or find an interesting event in your community. The busier you are, the more energized you will feel.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22.
It's vital to include some self-promotion in your business dealings. When others are aware of your innovative views, they will contribute.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22.
Your abilities will be showcased if you are able to combine business with pleasure. Others will be inspired by your resourcefulness and integrity. New partnerships look promising.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21.
Take a break from everyday activities and surround yourself with people who are in tune with your creative and artistic aspirations.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Don't be too quick to reveal your personal affairs. It's possible that someone may be trying to derail your plans. You can avoid problems with a slow and steady approach.

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan 20.
There is a world of opportunity open to you, so don't feel trapped in your current situation. Make yourself aware of the many possibilities available, and consider a new direction.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb 18.
If you are feeling unfulfilled, assess your current situation realistically, and prepare to make some changes. Don't wait for someone else to make the first move. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Letters

Why does the transponder have an off switch?

Day after day, we hear investigators tell us they don't know where or how 238 passengers and crew of flight MH370 vanished. I would like a simpler answer: Why is it possible to turn off the transponder, by accident, or with intent, in the first place? Such a device has an on/off switch in the cockpit? Why?
BOB KAWALEC, VIA EMAIL

Malaysia Airlines flight 370, where are you? Inquiring minds need to know. Fathers, mothers, friends and the world need to know the how, why and the where. Planes and people just do not disappear without a trace. Someone has to know. There is such an outcry for answers and none seems to be forthcoming. With all the technology we have today, we yet cannot find flight 370. That is so sad, indeed.
FREDERICK R. BEDELL JR., VIA EMAIL

It's time to use your words, America

I am guessing that the United States is expected to intervene in every squabble going on around the globe, because it is a world power? Well, I looked around the world and found that the good U.S. is at war with many countries or has already finished a war with some countries but stayed there to maintain U.S. presence and the country's stability. I think we should try negotiations more, as wars cost us human lives, money and broken families — not to mention the fatherless/motherless children created through wars. Enough is enough. I say we go green and desist from war at least for the next 30 years.
LETTIE LAWMAN, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Sudoku: Easy and hard

5				3		7	6	
	2		1		7		3	
	9	7	4				8	
		2			4			
			8	1	5			
			6			8		
	1				3	6	7	
	3		7		2		5	
	7	6		8				2

						6		
		9	4				8	3
			9	6		5		4
9		3	8					5
	6		7		9		1	
2					4	9		8
7		2		9	5			
5	9				6	7		
		6						

How to play
Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Crossword

Across
1 Deep fissure
6 Killer whale
10 Coal carrier
14 Thin porridge
15 Hop, skip or jump
16 Burrito alternative
17 Kate's brother-in-law
18 Fortas and Vigoda
19 Not even twice
20 Show up for
22 False
24 Flair for music
26 Gumshoe, often
27 Hong Kong taxi
31 LP spinners
32 Verdi numbers
33 Abdul or Zahn
36 Pull a fast one
39 "For the Boys" actor
40 Rolling
41 Rubens model
42 Anka's "— Beso"
43 Do a CPA's job
44 Like a seance
45 Lay low
46 Got off the subject
48 Poorly made
51 Battery size
52 Bach pieces
54 Minor setback
59 Ray gun blasts
60 "— — old cowhand . . ."
62 Baggy
63 Toward shelter
64 Mr. Wolfe
65 Type of statesman
66 Lipstick shades
67 Make like a beaver
68 Name in tractors

Down
1 — Khan
2 Holy terror
3 Tentlike dwelling
4 Desiccated
5 Cunning
6 Fish-to-be
7 Yanks' adversaries
8 Walked stealthily
9 Without reason
10 Zeno followers
11 Portage item
12 Take place
13 Big problems
21 Lah-di-—
23 Hindu noble
25 Part of REM
27 Move quickly
28 Levin and Gershwin
29 Hi or bye
30 Okla. neighbor
34 Rope-a-dope boxer
35 "Infra" opposite
36 Biceps exercise
37 Garfield's victim
38 More than want
40 Crowding together
41 Bird beak
43 Slave girl of opera
44 Clicked "send"
45 Derby entries
47 Long sigh
48 Fossil rock
49 Wished fervently
50 Mideast nation
52 Autocrat of yore
53 Mystery writer — Paretsky
55 Nursery-rhyme king
56 Message concealer
57 Software buyer
58 Yvette's father
61 Right this minute

Yesterday's answer

F	U	S	E	■	K	A	Y	S	■	F	I	B	E	R
A	L	P	S	■	O	L	E	O	■	A	R	E	N	A
I	N	I	T	■	R	A	T	A	■	R	A	N	G	Y
T	A	N	A	G	E	R	■	P	O	R	T	E	R	S
■	■	■	T	R	A	M	P	■	R	A	E	■	■	■
S	A	T	E	E	N	■	H	I	G	H	L	A	N	D
C	L	O	S	E	■	B	O	C	A	■	Y	M	I	R
I	V	Y	■	T	U	R	E	E	N	S	■	U	F	O
F	I	E	F	■	H	U	B	S	■	H	A	L	T	S
I	N	D	I	C	A	T	E	■	H	O	N	E	Y	S
■	■	■	F	L	U	■	S	M	A	R	T	■	■	■
R	E	N	T	A	L	S	■	Y	I	E	L	D	E	D
A	R	I	E	S	■	A	V	E	R	■	E	U	R	O
F	I	L	E	S	■	G	I	R	D	■	R	A	G	S
T	E	E	N	Y	■	A	P	S	O	■	S	L	O	E

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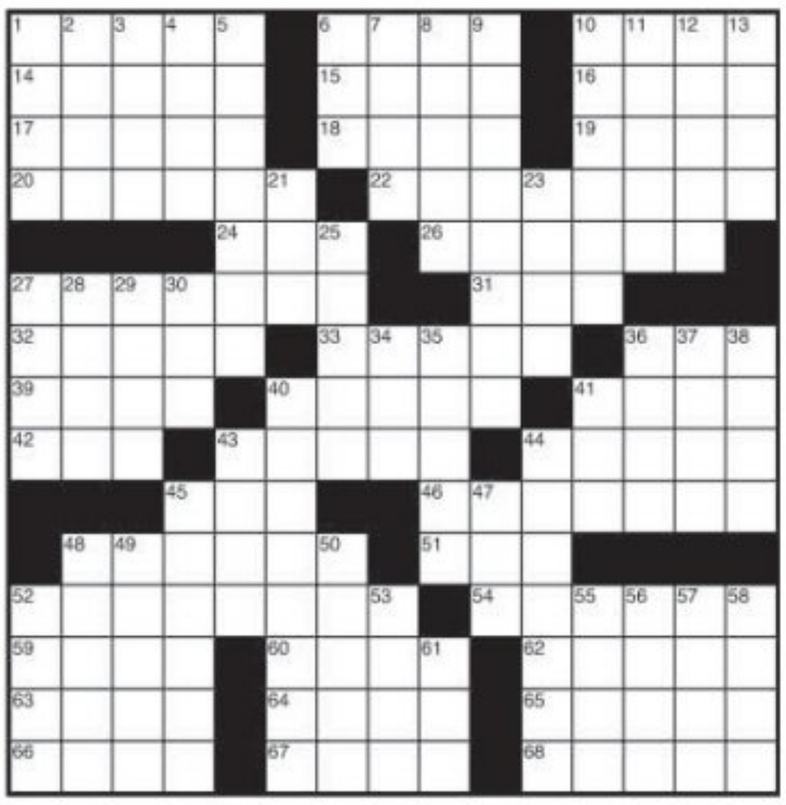

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3 SPORTS

Going streaking

B's hunting for history

The Bruins are red-hot, having won 10 games in a row. Nabbing Nos. 11 and 12 will be tough as they face the Avalanche (44-20-5) Friday and the Coyotes (33-25-11) Saturday. The Boston franchise record for consecutive wins is 14.

New generation of Revs lead the way at Gillette

MLS. The Revolution are turning to three young'uns in hopes of getting back into title contention.

The 2014 MLS regular season started in earnest two weeks ago, and the Revolution began their campaign losing 4-0 at Houston on March 8 then 1-0 last Saturday at Philadelphia. New England's home opener is this Saturday (2 p.m., CSNNE) at Gillette Stadium vs. Vancouver (1-0-1). Despite the initial two losses, hopes are high in Foxboro as New England made the playoffs for the first time since 2009 last fall.

Revolution goaltender Bobby Shuttleworth has the net all to himself this season. / GETTY IMAGES

Here are three Revolution players who are expected to come up big in 2014:

1 Bobby Shuttleworth
With Matt Reis retired, Shuttleworth no longer has to look over his shoulder. He is the Revolution's starting goaltender, whereas he made 22 starts last season and Reis handled all the big games down the stretch and in the postseason. His job security is shown by the fact that head coach Jay Heaps stuck with him after he allowed four goals in the season opener. Granted New England's defense was weak that night, so it likely wouldn't have mattered who was in net. Shuttleworth is 26 years old, and his backup, Brad Knighton, is 29.

By the numbers

9

Bobby Shuttleworth had nine shutouts in his 22 starts last season for the Revolution.

2 Teal Bunbury
New England traded a 2015 first-round pick to Kansas City to get Bunbury, a talented young striker who has made appearances for the U.S. national team. Bunbury played in only 12 games last season after tearing his ACL in 2012, but if he can regain his previous form, he could be one of the top goal-scoring stars in MLS. If the first two games are any indication, putting the ball in the net could be an issue for the Revolution as they have not yet scored in 2014.

3 Andrew Farrell
It didn't take long last season for the No. 1 overall pick of the 2013 MLS SuperDraft to prove he was worthy of his lofty expectations. Farrell is only 21, so it's not hard to see him being a defensive leader on the Revolution for a very long time. The Louisville, Ky., native had a minor injury and missed the season opener but returned last week. Not surprisingly, the Revolution allowed three fewer goals.

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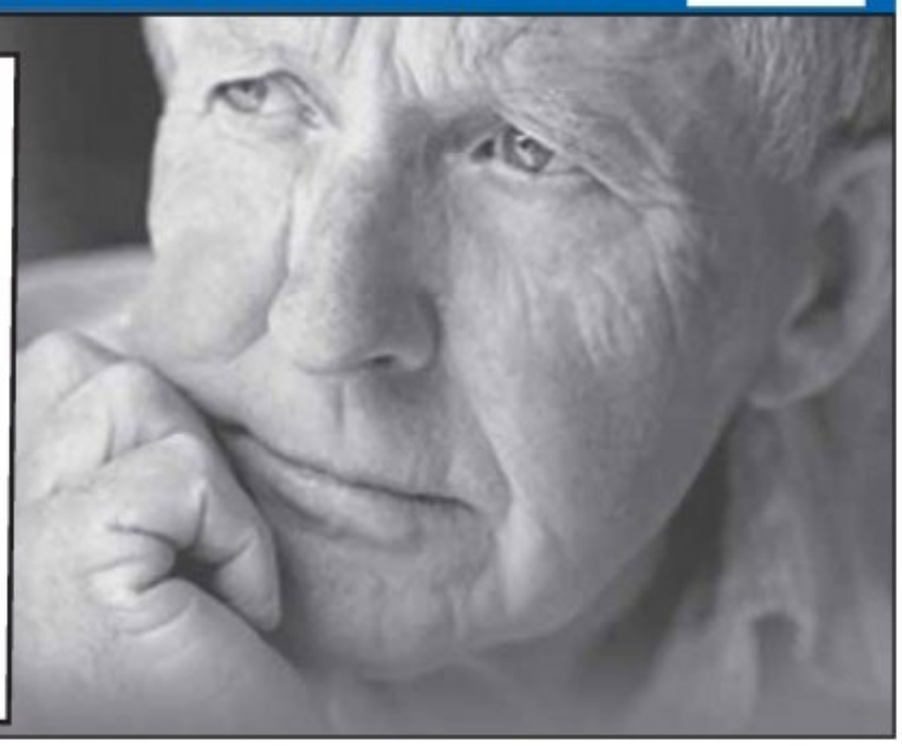

Slipper fitting

Crimson get one of first dances on first full afternoon

Harvard will be the first team from New England to compete in the 2014 NCAA men's basketball tournament as the 12-seeded Crimson will face the 5-seeded Cincinnati Bearcats Thursday (2:10 p.m., TNT).

Harvard is a chic upset pick in the East region and Tommy Amaker's group already has experience in the bracket-busting business as they downed a No. 3 seed in New Mexico last March.

Swingman Wesley Saunders (14.0 points per game), forward Steve Moundou-Missi (10.5 points per game) and guard Siyani Chambers (11.1 points per game) return to the big stage, looking to score another upset.

If the Crimson were to advance they would face the winner of Michigan State/Delaware on Saturday.

UConn also plays on Thursday (6:55 p.m., TBS), opening against Saint Joseph's. METRO

TOMMY AMAKER IS SEEKING ANOTHER UPSET. GETTY IMAGES

NFL. New Patriots wide receiver LaFell focused on winning big in Foxboro

Brandon LaFell caught 49 passes in 2013. / GETTY IMAGES

Somewhat lost in the hubbub surrounding the Patriots' inking of cornerback Darrelle Revis was that the front office appears quite focused on improving quarterback Tom Brady's targets for 2014.

Wide receiver Brandon LaFell enjoyed his best NFL season with Carolina in 2013, catching 49 passes for 627 yards and five touchdowns. The Patriots signed the free agent to a three-year, $9 million deal last week and he spoke with reporters Wednesday.

"Nothing against those guys [in Carolina], but [winning] is proven up here," LaFell said about his new home in Foxboro. "We won last year in Carolina but these guys have been winning for the last 10-plus years. So, why wouldn't I want to come to a winning organization?"

LaFell actually had his most productive game of 2013 against the Patriots, grabbing seven passes from Carolina QB Cam Newton for 59 yards and a touchdown in a 24-20 Panthers victory. MATT BURKE

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